

From: "Leslie Bienenfeld" <lbienenfeld@gmail.com>
To: <james_capp@dnr.state.ga.us>
Date: 2/22/2008 6:19:26 PM
Subject: Comments on Air Quality Permit 17924

To: James Capp
GA DNR
EPD-Air Protection Division
Atlanta, GA 30354
James_capp@dnr.state.ga.us

From: Leslie Bienenfeld

lbienenfeld@gmail.com

Re: Comment on Air Quality Permit Application 17924

Dear James,

I am writing to the DNR today because I do want Air Quality Permit 17924 to be issued to Power4Georgians for Plant Washington—Sandersville, a new coal-fired power plant proposed to be built in Washington Co., Georgia. Georgia has not built a new coal-fired power plant in 20 years, but has already permitted another company, Dynegy, to build a coal-fired power plant in Early County (called Longleaf) within the last 15 months.

This method of generating energy is dirty and water hungry. The plant site will be a source of high levels of sulfur dioxides, heavy metals (including mercury), radioactive isotopes, nitrogen oxides, particulate matter, and the greenhouse gases carbon dioxide and water vapor. Washington County and neighboring Wilkinson County already have unsafe levels of soot in their air. The plant will also increase the demand on coal. This mining process is destroying our precious Appalachian Mountains through mountaintop removal practices, destruction of old, carbon-storing forests, and through the generation of acid rain that results from sulfuric acid produced during the mining process. Coal must also be shipped long distances to get to Sandersville, increasing pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from freight trains that run all over Georgia. This plant will also consume 16 million gallons of water a day from the Chattahoochee. Combined with Early County Longleaf, that is over 36 million gallons of water a day that the DNR will be permitting new plants to take from an already drought ridden state within six months of our Georgia's declaration of a State of Emergency due to low levels of water in the Chattahoochee. In addition to water consumption, Plant Washington will further

pollute Georgia's Oconee River at its discharge site.

Please let me also remind you the effects of these plants will affect the air quality in Atlanta. As we saw with the Okefenokee fires, Atlanta and all of Georgia is subject the smoke and air pollution created south of the city. We already have unhealthy levels of air pollution in Atlanta, with our poor air quality, high levels of childhood asthma, and frequent smog alert days among the most embarrassing in the country.

The DNR is responsible for protecting the health and safety of Georgia's residents and environment, not the economic wellbeing of companies. We need clean air, clean water, and clean agriculture to have a healthy and happy state of people. Many states, including Florida, are already banning the construction of new coal-fired power plants to ensure these basic needs for their states. Georgia has already recently permitted the Early County Longleaf plant to infringe on this right. Please do not disregard the people of Georgia again by issuing an Air Quality Permit for Plant Washington-Sandersville.

Sincerely,

Leslie Bienenfeld
Atlanta, GA

Kasumi Kato
Atlanta, GA
691-P John Wesley Dobbs Ave NE
Atlanta Ga 30312

Devin McLaughlin
Atlanta, GA

Faira Holliday
Milledgeville, GA

Lindsay Holliday, DMD
Macon, GA

Marie Holliday
Macon, GA

Laura Beamer
Atlanta, GA

John Boyea
jboyea3@gatech.edu
gameboyea@gmail.com
678 451 8558
Mater Sci & Engr, Senior
GT MSE Umbrella President
Students lets stay in touch,
<http://gtumbrella.blogspot.com/>

Activist,
Students Organizing for Sustainability
Volunteer Coordinator
<http://www.youtube.com/user/gameboyea>

Devin McLaughlin
Atlanta, GA

Martin Gantt
Atlanta, GA

Bret O'Conner
Atlanta, GA

Seth Gunning
Valdosta, GA

Jen Wang
Atlanta, GA

Maureen Beamer
Atlanta, GA

Kate Morales
Atlanta, GA

Liam Rattray
Atlanta, GA

Heidi Raben
Athens, Georgia

Chris Ward
Atlanta, Georgia

Erin Glynn
Atlanta, GA

Corinne Bienenfeld
Marietta, GA

Robbie Smith
Decatur, GA

Gabrielle Arrington
Atlanta, GA

Robert Kaufman
Atlanta, GA

Gary Kaufman, MD
Sea Island, GA

Margaret Kaufman
Sea Island, GA

Elise Nabors
Atlanta, GA

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Sue Oakes
Hope, Maine

Dave Oakes,
Hope, Maine

Allison Bienenfeld
Cranston, RI

Eric Dumford
Cranston, RI

Carol Bienenfeld
Portsmouth, RI

Gabriela Boscio
Ashland, Wisconsin

Philip Wasniewski
Ashland, WI

Travis Edrington
Ashland, WI